

Patent  
Attorney's Docket No. 003300-817

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of ) **BOX PCT**  
ROBERT PACHOLIK et al. )  
Application No. 09/913,938 ) Attention: PCT Legal Office  
Filed: October 2, 2001 ) Mr. Bryan Tung  
For: COPPER RECOVERY PROCESS )  
                                )

**RECEIVED**

25 FEB 2002

Legal Staff

International Division

**REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION      TO CONFIRM OCTOBER 2, 2001  
FILING DATE OF SIGNED DECLARATION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Reconsideration of the Decision dated February 15, 2002 respectfully is requested.

This matter was discussed with PCT Legal Examiner Bryan Tung by telephone on  
February 22, 2002 when the Decision first reached the desk of the undersigned attorney.

It respectfully is requested that the October 2, 2001 filing date of the signed  
Declaration for this Application be confirmed.

Applicants regret that the signed Declaration that was filed on October 2, 2001 at  
the mail room of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office was not properly matched with the  
file and followed by the issuance of an Official Filing Receipt in a timely manner.

In a sincere effort to expedite prosecution another copy of the signed Declaration  
was sent by Ms. Angela Yilmaz of the U.S. Designated/Elected Office by facsimile on  
January 30, 2002. (A filing date for the resubmission of "07 February 2002" is indicated  
in the Decision).

This Patent Application was originally filed in the U.S. Designated/Elected Office in unsigned form on August 20, 2001.

The signed Declaration dated August 22, 2001 accompanied September 24, 2001 correspondence from Sweden that expressly indicated the Declaration to pertain to "Patent Application in USA based on PCT/SE/00066" and additionally provided the appropriate reference numbers of the sender and the recipient. We are confident that it was intended for submission with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/913,938.

This signed Declaration dated August 22, 2001 was hand-carried to the mailroom of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office for filing on October 2, 2001. A copy of the Transmittal Letter that identifies the above-identified Application that was filed on October 2, 2001 is attached as Exhibit A. A copy of the signed Declaration that was filed on October 2, 2001 is attached as Exhibit B. Attached as Exhibit C is a copy of the stamped postcard receipt that evidences this filing. The undersigned attorney has access to the cancelled \$130.00 check that was submitted on October 2, 2001. If a copy of the cancelled check would be useful this too can be provided.

For the combination of reasons stated hereafter the signed Declaration that was filed on October 2, 2001 should be found to correspond to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/913,938 that is a national phase filing of International Application No. PCT/SE00/00066, filed 14 January 2000 in the names of Robert Pacholik and Gunner Lidmer which claims priority from Swedish Application No. 9900748-6, filed March 2, 1999. As a practical matter there is no other U.S. Patent Application to which it could possibly pertain.

- (1) The appropriate inventors (i.e., Robert Pacholik and Gunnar Lidmer) signed the Declaration. They can be confirmed to be the same joint-inventors of International Application No. PCT/SE00/00066, filed January 14, 2000.
- (2) The signed Declaration at Page 2 indicates the filing date of the "14/01/00" (day/month/year) for the PCT Application to which it pertains.
- (3) The signed Declaration at the upper right-hand corner bears Attorney's Docket No. "003300-817". This is the same Attorney's Docket number that was used when U.S. Patent Application No. 09/913,938 was filed in unsigned form on August 20, 2001 as can be confirmed from the official file. Also, the Assignment with respect to U.S. Patent Application No. 09/913,938 that was recorded on the same October 2, 2001 date used the same Attorney's Docket number. A copy of the Assignment that has been recorded at Reel 012215, Frame 0761 is attached as Exhibit D.
- (4) The signed Declaration of Page 1 indicates that priority is being claimed for the earlier filing of Swedish Application No. 9900748-6 on "02/03/99" (day/month/year). It can be confirmed from the records of the U.S. Designated/Elected Office that International Application No. PCT/SE00/00066, filed 14 January 2000, is the International Application that claims priority for the filing of Swedish Application No. 9900748-6.

- (5) It can be confirmed from the records of the U.S. Designated/Elected Office that International Application No. PCT/SE00/00066 is the only International Application naming Robert Pacholik and Gunnar Lidmer as joint-inventors that was filed on "14/01/00" (day/month/year) that designates the United States.
- (6) The Transmittal Letter of October 2, 2001 (*i.e.*, Exhibit A) expressly associates the signed Declaration with the above-identified U.S. Patent Application No. 09/913,938 as always has been the intent of Applicants and their attorneys.

It respectfully is urged that the signed Declaration that was filed on October 2, 2001 adequately identifies the Application so that an unequivocal match is made with Application No. 09/913,938. The indications listed above without exception lead to the identification of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/913,938, and it is impossible to identify any other U.S. Patent Application to which it could possibly pertain.

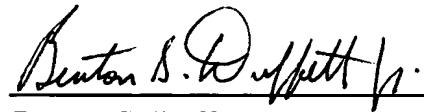
Favorable prompt consideration of this submission respectfully is requested. It would be most appreciated that favorable action upon this request be communicated to the undersigned attorney by telephone at 703-838-6602, as well as in writing.

Application No. 09/913,938  
Attorney's Docket No. 003300-817  
Page 5

If there is any remaining point that requires clarification, please immediately contact the undersigned attorney by telephone and every effort will be made to promptly respond.

Respectfully submitted,

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.

By:   
Benton S. Duffett, Jr.  
Registration No. 22,030

P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

Date: February 25, 2002

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

003300-817

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.5)

09/913,938

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  
PCT/SE00/00066INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE  
14 January 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED  
2 March 1999TITLE OF INVENTION  
COPPER RECOVERY PROCESSAPPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US  
Robert PACHOLIK et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1.  This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2.  This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3.  This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and the PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4.  A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5.  A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
  - a.  is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b.  has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c.  is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US)
6.  A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7.  Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
  - a.  are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
  - b.  have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
  - c.  have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d.  have not been made and will not be made.
8.  A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9.  An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10.  A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11.  An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12.  An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13.  A FIRST preliminary amendment.
  - A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment.
14.  A substitute specification.
15.  A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16.  Other items or information:

1D-2-01-JD

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 C.F.R. 1.50)  
09/913,938

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.  
PCT/SE00/00066

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER  
003300-817

17.  The following fees are submitted:

CALCULATIONS

PTO USE ONLY

**Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):**

Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$1,040.00 (960)

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... \$890.00 (970)

International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... \$740.00 (958)

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$710.00 (956)

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... \$100.00 (962)

**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**

\$ --

Surcharge of \$130.00 (154) for furnishing the oath or declaration later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

20  30

\$ 130.00

Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate	
Total Claims	-20 =		X \$18.00 (966)	\$ --
Independent Claims	-3 =		X \$84.00 (964)	\$ --
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$280.00 (968)	\$ --

**TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =** \$ 130.00

Reduction for 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable (see below).

\$ --

**SUBTOTAL =** \$ 130.00

Processing fee of \$130.00 (156) for furnishing the English translation later than months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).

20  30

\$ --

+

**TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =** \$ 130.00

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 (581) per property +

\$ --

**TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =** \$ 130.00

	Amount to be: refunded	\$
	charged	\$

- a.  Small entity status is hereby claimed.
- b.  A check in the amount of \$ 130.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- c.  Please charge my Deposit Account No. 02-4800 in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- d.  The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4800. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Benton S. Duffett, Jr.  
BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.  
P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620

*Benton S. Duffett Jr.*

SIGNATURE

Benton S. Duffett, Jr.

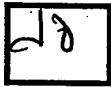
NAME

22,030

REGISTRATION NUMBER

Inventor: Robert PACHOLIK et al. Appln. No.: 09/913,938 Filing Date: *Aug 20, 01* October 2, 2001

Docket No.: 003300-817 Work Atty.: BSD/jb Date: October 2, 2001



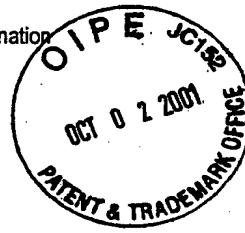
The following was/were received in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date stamped hereon: *12*

Amendment or Response  
 Preliminary Amendment  
 Reply Transmittal Letter  
 Petition for \_\_\_ Month Extension of Time  
 Submission of Formal Drawings w/\_ sheet(s) of drawings (Fig(s). 1-\_)  
 Request for Approval of Drawing Changes w/\_ sheet(s) of red ink drawings  
 Notice of Appeal  
 Brief for Appellant  
 Request for Oral Hearing  
 Reply Brief  
 Response to Restriction Requirement or Election of Species

Terminal Disclaimer  Certificate Under 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b)  
 Transmittal Letter for Missing Parts of Application  
 Executed Declaration/Power of Attorney  
 Assignment/Assignment Recordation Form Cover Sheet (PTO-1595)  
 Claim for Convention Priority w/\_ certified copy(s)  
 Information Disclosure Statement w/\_ document(s)  
 Information Disclosure Citation (PTO-1449)  
 Information Disclosure Statement Transmittal Letter  
 Request for Corrected Notice of Recordation of Assignment w/copy of Notice  
 Request for Continued Examination

Check for \$130.00 is enclosed  
 Check for \$\_\_ is enclosed  
 Charge \$\_\_ to Deposit Account  
 Issue Fee Transmittal  
 Payment of Issue Fee and Authorization to charge Deposit Account  
 Request for Refund  
 Status Inquiry  
 Request for Corrected Filing Receipt w/copy of Official Filing Receipt

(10/00)



*47*

**COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
(Includes Reference to Provisional and International (PCT) Applications)**

Attorney's Docket No.  
003300-817

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name;  
**I BELIEVE I AM THE ORIGINAL, FIRST AND SOLE INVENTOR (IF ONLY ONE NAME IS LISTED BELOW) OR AN  
 ORIGINAL, FIRST AND JOINT INVENTOR (IF PLURAL NAMES ARE LISTED BELOW) OF THE SUBJECT MATTER  
 WHICH IS CLAIMED AND FOR WHICH A PATENT IS SOUGHT ON THE INVENTION ENTITLED:**

The specification of which (check only one item below):

is attached hereto.

was filed as United States Patent Application Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 on \_\_\_\_\_  
 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

was filed as International (PCT) Application Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 on \_\_\_\_\_  
 and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I HAVE REVIEWED AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTENTS OF THE ABOVE-IDENTIFIED SPECIFICATION,  
 INCLUDING THE CLAIMS, AS AMENDED BY ANY AMENDMENT REFERRED TO ABOVE.

I ACKNOWLEDGE THE DUTY TO DISCLOSE TO THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ALL INFORMATION  
 KNOWN TO ME TO BE MATERIAL TO PATENTABILITY AS DEFINED IN TITLE 37, CODE OF FEDERAL  
 REGULATIONS, Sec. 1.56 (as amended effective March 16, 1992);

I do not know and do not believe the said invention was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to said application; that said invention was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to said application; that said invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of said application in any country foreign to the United States of America on any application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than six months prior to said application;

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §§ 119 (a)-(e) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any International (PCT) Application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT International (PCT) Application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

**PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119:**

COUNTRY (If PCT, Indicate "PCT")	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. §119
SE	9900748-6	02/03/99	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(APPLICATION NUMBER)

(FILING DATE)

(APPLICATION NUMBER)

(FILING DATE)

**COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY (CONT'D)**  
 (Includes Reference to Provisional and International (PCT) Applications)

Attorney's Docket  
 No. 003300-817

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States applications(s) or International (PCT) Application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations § 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or international filing date of this application:

**PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR INTERNATIONAL (PCT) APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 120:**

U.S. APPLICATIONS		STATUS (check one)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE	PATENTED	PENDING	ABANDONED
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.		
PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. APPLICATION NUMBERS ASSIGNED (if any)
PCT	14/01/00	

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and agent(s) to prosecute said application and to transact all business in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and to file, prosecute and to transact all business in connection with international applications directed to said invention:

William L. Mathis	17,337	Eric H. Weisblatt	30,505	Bruce T. Wieder	33,815
Robert S. Swecker	19,885	James W. Peterson	26,057	Todd R. Walters	34,040
Platon N. Mandros	22,124	Teresa Stanek Rea	30,427	Ronni S. Jillions	31,979
Benton S. Duffett, Jr.	22,030	Robert E. Krebs	25,885	Harold R. Brown III	36,341
Norman H. Stepno	22,716	William C. Rowland	30,888	Allen R. Baum	36,086
Ronald L. Grudziecki	24,970	T. Gene Dillahunt	25,423	Steven M. duBois	35,023
Frederick G. Michaud, Jr.	26,003	Patrick C. Keane	32,858	Brian P. O'Shaughnessy	32,747
Alan E. Kopecki	25,813	B. Jefferson Boggs, Jr.	32,344	Kenneth B. Leffler	36,075
Regis E. Slutter	26,999	William H. Benz	25,952	Fred W. Hathaway	32,236
Samuel C. Miller, III	27,360	Peter K. Skiff	31,917	Wendi L. Weinstein	34,456
Robert G. Mukai	28,531	Richard J. McGrath	29,195	Mary Ann Dillahunt	34,576
George A. Hovanec, Jr.	28,223	Matthew L. Schneider	32,814		
James A. LaBarre	28,632	Michael G. Savage	32,596		
E. Joseph Gess	28,510	Gerald F. Swiss	30,113		
R. Danny Huntington	27,903	Charles F. Wieland III	33,096		



21839

and:  
 Address all correspondence to:

BURNS, DOANE, SWECKER & MATHIS, L.L.P.  
 P.O. Box 1404  
 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404



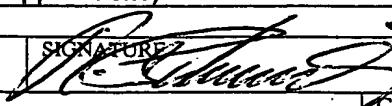
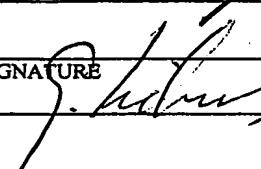
21839

Address all telephone calls to: \_\_\_\_\_ at (703) 836-6620.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**COMBINED DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
(CONT'D)  
(Includes Reference to Provisional and International (PCT) Applications)**

Attorney's Docket No.  
003300-817

FULL NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR Robert PACHOLIK	SIGNATURE 	DATE 2001.08.22
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY) ASKIM, Sweden	CITIZENSHIP SE	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS) Askims Högalid 12, SE-436 51 ASKIM, Sweden		
FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY Gunnar LIDMER	SIGNATURE 	DATE 2001.08.22
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY) VALLDA, Sweden	CITIZENSHIP SE	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS) Ängas 32-35, SE-434 93 VALLDA, Sweden		
FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY)	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS)		
FULL NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY)	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS)		
FULL NAME OF FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY)	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS)		
FULL NAME OF SIXTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY)	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS)		
FULL NAME OF SEVENTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY)	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS)		
FULL NAME OF EIGHTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY)	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS)		
FULL NAME OF NINTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY)	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS)		
FULL NAME OF TENTH JOINT INVENTOR, IF ANY	SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE (CITY & STATE/COUNTRY)	CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS (HOME ADDRESS)		

## **ASSIGNMENT (JOINT)**

THIS ASSIGNMENT, by ROBERT PACHOLIK, and GUNNAR LIDMER, residing at ASKIMS HÖGALID 12, SE-436 51 ASKIM, SWEDEN and ÄNGÅS 32-35, SE-434 93 VALLDA, SWEDEN (hereinafter referred to as "the Assignors"), respectively, witnesseth:

WHEREAS, the Assignors have invented certain new and useful improvements in COPPER RECOVERY PROCESS set forth in an application for Letters Patent of the United States,

provisional application  non-provisional application

1. (a)  filed herewith;  
(b)  to be filed;
2.  having an oath or declaration executed on even date herewith prior to filing of application;
3.  bearing Application No. 097913,938, and filed on August 20, 2001;

WHEREAS, MECER HOLDINGS CORP., a corporation duly organized under and pursuant to the laws of CAYMAN ISLANDS and having a principal place of business at C/O SIGMA METALLEXTRAKTION AB, DATAVÄGEN 51, SE-436 32 ASKIM, SWEDEN (hereinafter referred to as "the Assignee"), is desirous of acquiring the entire right, title, and interest in and to said inventions, the right to file applications on said inventions and the entire right, title and interest in and to any applications, including provisional applications for Letters Patent of the United States or other countries claiming priority to said application, and in and to any Letters Patent or Patents, United States or foreign, to be obtained therefor and thereon.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) and other good and sufficient consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Assignors have sold, assigned, transferred, and set over, and by these presents do sell, assign, transfer, and set over, unto the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns the entire right, title, and interest in and to the above-mentioned inventions, the right to file applications on said inventions and the entire right, title and interest in and to any applications for Letters Patent of the United States or other countries claiming priority to said applications, and any and all Letters Patent or Patents of the United States of America and all foreign countries that may be granted therefor and thereon, and in and to any and all applications claiming priority to said applications, divisions, continuations, and continuations-in-part of said applications, and reissues and extensions of said Letters Patent or Patents, and all rights under the International Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, the same to be held and enjoyed by the Assignee, for its own use and behalf and the use and behalf of its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, to the full end of the term or terms for which Letters Patent or Patents may be granted as fully and entirely as the same would have been held and enjoyed by the Assignors had this sale and assignment not been made;

AND for the same consideration, the Assignors hereby covenant and agree to and with the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, that, at the time of execution and delivery of these presents, the Assignors are the sole and lawful owners of the entire right, title, and interest in and to the inventions set forth in said applications and said applications, including provisional applications, above-mentioned, and that the same are unencumbered, and that the Assignors have good and full right and lawful authority to sell and convey the same in the manner herein set forth;

AND for the same consideration, the Assignors hereby covenant and agree to and with the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns that the Assignors will, whenever counsel of the Assignee, or the counsel of its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, shall advise that any proceeding in connection with said inventions or said applications for Letters Patent or Patents, or any proceeding in connection with Letters Patent or Patents for said inventions in any country, including interference proceedings, is lawful and desirable, or that any application claiming priority to said application, division, continuation, or continuation-in-part of any applications for Letters Patent or Patents, or any reissue or extension of any Letters Patent or Patents to be obtained thereon, is lawful and desirable, sign all papers and documents, take all lawful oaths, and do all acts necessary or required to be done for the procurement, maintenance, enforcement, and defense of Letters Patent or Patents for said inventions, without charge to the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns, but at the cost and expense of the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns;

AND the Assignors hereby authorize and request the attorneys of Burns, Doane, Swecker & Mathis, L.L.P., of Alexandria, Virginia, to insert in the spaces provided above the filing date, application number, and attorney's docket number of said application when known.

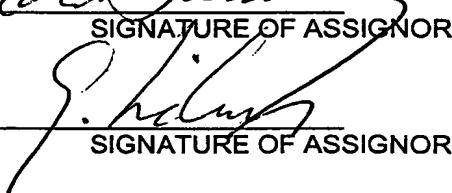
AND the Assignors hereby request the Commissioner of Patents to issue any and all said Letters Patent of the United States to the Assignee as the Assignee of said inventions, the Letters Patent to be issued for the sole use and behalf of the Assignee, its successors, legal representatives, and assigns.

DATE 1.08.2001



SIGNATURE OF ASSIGNOR

DATE 1.08.2001



SIGNATURE OF ASSIGNOR

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



SIGNATURE OF ASSIGNOR

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



SIGNATURE OF ASSIGNOR

DATE \_\_\_\_\_



SIGNATURE OF ASSIGNOR